

Wisconsin Marriages and Divorces, 2000

September 2001

Bureau of Health Information
Division of Health Care Financing
Department of Health and Family Services

Suggested citation:

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Health Care Financing,
Bureau of Health Information. *Wisconsin Marriages and Divorces, 2000* (PHC 5301).
September 2001

Introduction

This report presents key information about marriages and divorces that occurred in Wisconsin in 2000. It also contains information from selected previous years, as well as information on the number and rate of marriages and divorces, both in Wisconsin and nationally. The sources of data for Wisconsin are marriage and divorce certificates on file with the Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

The collection of marriage and divorce data is mandated by Chapter 69 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Chapter 69 authorizes the Department of Health and Family Services to supervise and direct the collection of these data. This statute also stipulates how local registrars are to collect and file certificates of marriage. Samples of the marriage and divorce certificates are included in the Technical Notes.

The Department of Health and Family Services produced this publication. Staff of the Vital Records Registration and Statistics Unit, Bureau of Health Information, collected and compiled the marriage and divorce records. Joyce Knapton drafted the summaries in this report and produced the computer programs to generate the tables. Patricia Nametz edited the report. The report was prepared under the supervision of Janet Heimbruch, State Registrar, Vital Records Section, and Lynnette Traas, Supervisor, Registration and Statistics Unit. Sandra Breitborde, Director, Bureau of Health Information, provided overall direction.

The Bureau of Health Information would like to thank the County Clerks for issuing accurate marriage licenses and the local Register of Deeds offices for their accurate recording of all marriage records.

This report is also available on the Department of Health and Family Services Web site, at www.dhfs.state.wi.us/stats.

Comments, suggestions, and requests for additional marriage or divorce data may be addressed to:

Joyce Knapton
Bureau of Health Information
Division of Health Care Financing
P. O. Box 309, Room 172
Madison, WI 53701-0309
(608) 267-7815
knaptj@dhfs.state.wi.us

Table of Contents

Key Findings	5
---------------------------	---

Marriages

Table 1.	Marriages and Marriage Rates, Wisconsin and United States, Selected Years, 1920-2000	7
Table 2.	Median Age at First Marriage and All Remarriages, Wisconsin 1960-2000	8
Table 3.	Marriages and Remarriages by Age of Bride and Groom, Wisconsin 2000.....	9
Table 4.	Monthly Marriage Totals by County, Wisconsin 2000	10

Divorces

Table 5.	Divorces and Divorce Rates, Wisconsin and United States, Selected Years, 1920-2000	12
Table 6.	Divorces and Annulments by County, Wisconsin 2000.....	13
Table 7.	Divorces Affecting Children Under 18 Years of Age by County, Wisconsin 2000	14

Technical Notes

Reporting Requirements	15
Sample Marriage Certificate	16
Sample Divorce Certificate.....	17

Key Findings

- A total of 36,100 marriages occurred in Wisconsin in 2000, representing a slight increase from the 35,754 marriages that occurred in 1999. These counts reflect all marriages that occurred in Wisconsin (of both residents and non-residents of the state).
- Wisconsin's marriage rate in 2000 was 6.7 per 1,000 total population, similar to the 1999 rate of 6.8 but still representing a gradual decline since 1980 when the rate was 8.7.
- The marriage rate in Wisconsin has been consistently lower than the national rate for more than 75 years. In 2000, the United States marriage rate was 8.5.
- The median age for first marriages in 2000 was 24.7 for brides and 26.3 for grooms. In 1960, the median age at first marriage was 20.4 for brides and 22.9 for grooms.
- Since 1960, the average bride in a first marriage has been approximately two years younger than the groom.
- In 2000, the months with the highest number of marriages were June, August and September. September was the most popular month to marry.
- Milwaukee County had the highest number of marriages in 2000 (5,500), followed by Dane County (2,836), Waukesha County (2,372), and Brown County (1,693). These are Wisconsin's four most populous counties.
- A total of 17,388 divorces occurred in Wisconsin in 2000, for a divorce rate of 3.2 per 1,000 total population. This is slightly lower than the 1999 rate (3.3) and is the lowest statewide rate since 1975.
- The divorce rate in Wisconsin has been consistently lower than the national rate for more than 75 years. In 2000, the United States divorce rate was 4.1.
- In 2000, the total number of Wisconsin divorces was 48 percent of the total number of Wisconsin marriages. This was identical to the 1999 percentage.
- The highest number of divorces occurred in Milwaukee County (2,550 divorces and 13 annulments), followed by Dane County (1,375 divorces and 5 annulments) and Waukesha County (1,071 divorces and 1 annulment), reflecting the large populations of these three counties.
- Fifty-five percent of all Wisconsin divorces in 2000 involved families with children under 18 years of age. Among divorces involving families with children, an average of 1.8 children were affected by each divorce.

Table 1. Marriages and Marriage Rates, Wisconsin and United States, Selected Years, 1920-2000

Year	Number of Wisconsin Marriages	Wisconsin Marriage Rate*	United States Marriage Rate*
1920	22,293	8.4	12.0
1925	16,385	5.8	10.3
1930	15,328	5.2	9.2
1935	21,075	6.9	10.4
1940	23,379	7.5	12.1
1945	25,269	8.5	12.2
1950	29,081	8.4	11.1
1955	25,543	7.0	9.3
1960	24,573	6.2	8.5
1965	28,410	6.7	9.3
1970	34,415	7.8	10.6
1975	35,888	7.9	10.0
1980	41,113	8.7	10.6
1985	40,014	8.4	10.1
1990	38,934	8.0	9.8
1991	37,765	7.6	9.4
1992	37,069	7.4	9.2
1993	36,415	7.2	9.0
1994	36,375	7.2	9.1
1995	36,354	7.1	8.9
1996	36,186	7.0	8.9
1997	35,546	6.8	8.9
1998	34,946	6.7	8.4
1999	35,754	6.8	8.6
2000	36,100	6.7	8.5

Source: U.S. marriage rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*. Wisconsin numbers and rates are from the Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

* Rates shown are marriages per 1,000 total population.

Notes: The Wisconsin numbers and rates reflect marriages that occurred in Wisconsin. The U.S. marriage rates for 1999 and 2000 are provisional based on marriages that occurred in the 12 months ending in December of both years.

- A total of 36,100 marriages occurred in Wisconsin in 2000, representing a slight increase from the 35,754 marriages that occurred in 1999.
- Wisconsin's marriage rate in 2000 was 6.7 per 1,000 total population, similar to the 1999 rate of 6.8 but still representing a gradual decline since 1980 when the rate was 8.7.
- The marriage rate in Wisconsin has been consistently lower than the national rate for more than 75 years.

Table 2. Median Age at First Marriage and All Remarriages, Wisconsin 1960-2000

	First Marriages		All Remarriages	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Bride</u>	<u>Groom</u>	<u>Bride</u>	<u>Groom</u>
1960	20.4	22.9	39.9	45.1
1965	20.6	22.5	40.4	45.2
1970	20.8	22.6	37.4	42.6
1975	20.8	22.7	32.4	37.1
1980	21.7	23.5	31.7	34.9
1985	22.9	24.7	33.7	36.9
1990	23.8	25.5	38.3	41.6
1991	23.9	25.6	38.6	41.7
1992	24.1	25.7	38.8	42.3
1993	24.2	25.8	39.0	42.0
1994	24.3	25.8	39.4	42.3
1995	24.5	26.0	39.9	42.6
1996	24.6	26.2	40.4	43.6
1997	24.6	26.3	40.7	43.4
1998	24.6	26.3	41.1	43.9
1999	24.6	26.3	41.6	44.5
2000	24.7	26.3	41.7	44.6

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: The median age is one way of expressing the average age, and represents the midpoint of all persons in the group (half are older and half are younger than the median age). For example, in 1995 the median age for brides at first marriage was 24.5, meaning that half of all brides being married for the first time in 1995 were younger, and half were older, than 24.5. The numbers in this table reflect all marriages that occurred in Wisconsin in the stated years.

- The median age for first marriages in 2000 was 24.7 for brides and 26.3 for grooms. In 1960, the median age at first marriage was 20.4 for brides and 22.9 for grooms.
- Since 1960, the average bride in a first marriage has been approximately two years younger than the groom.

Table 3. Marriages and Remarriages by Age of Bride and Groom, Wisconsin 2000

Age in Years	Bride					Groom				
	Total Marriages	First	Second	Third	Fourth or More	Total Marriages	First	Second	Third	Fourth or More
	36,100	24,965	8,802	1,919	414	36,100	25,315	8,692	1,775	318
16	115	115				6	6			
17	162	162				28	28			
18	649	649				207	207			
19	1,039	1,037	2			458	458			
20	1,331	1,320	11			751	747	4		
21	1,696	1,673	23			1,162	1,154	8		
22	2,290	2,235	55			1,612	1,595	17		
23	2,603	2,535	66	2		2,004	1,970	34		
24	2,500	2,367	132	1		2,153	2,108	43	2	
25-29	9,262	7,952	1,238	70	2	10,053	9,251	778	24	
30-34	5,201	3,016	1,937	224	24	6,372	4,602	1,629	138	3
35-39	3,435	1,156	1,809	419	51	3,944	1,917	1,758	253	16
40-44	2,381	450	1,407	430	94	2,716	788	1,511	369	48
45-49	1,571	182	925	347	117	1,824	295	1,089	356	84
50-54	887	77	534	210	66	1,210	121	743	263	83
55-59	410	19	269	96	26	680	41	429	166	44
60-64	255	3	175	58	19	372	16	234	102	20
65-69	129	8	83	28	10	218	8	152	49	9
70-74	99	4	72	19	4	171	1	140	24	6
75+	85	5	64	15	1	159	2	123	29	5

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: Totals shown represent marriages that occurred in Wisconsin in 2000.

- For first-time brides and grooms, the highest number of marriages occurred between the ages of 25 and 29.
- In 2000, first-time grooms in Wisconsin outnumbered first-time brides by more than 300.

Marriages

Table 4. Monthly Marriage Totals by County, Wisconsin 2000

<u>County</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
State Total	36,100	1,271	1,538	1,622	2,259	3,494	4,577	4,212	4,366	5,369	3,901	1,773	1,718
Adams	133	7	7	6	9	15	17	15	13	20	13	4	7
Ashland	146	5	4	3	8	13	16	16	28	26	16	4	7
Barron	327	16	13	17	16	37	33	31	42	51	40	10	21
Bayfield	141	8	4	6	6	9	21	18	21	28	12	7	1
Brown	1,693	42	62	68	108	180	244	202	192	259	177	86	73
Buffalo	89	4	6	3	5	7	9	10	8	21	8	4	4
Burnett	108		3	3	3	7	16	14	15	22	10	4	11
Calumet	193	4	8	8	18	21	20	22	26	30	18	12	6
Chippewa	451	16	16	15	33	51	53	53	61	74	39	15	25
Clark	236	7	5	5	14	23	28	35	38	30	25	18	8
Columbia	350	14	13	11	20	35	50	35	29	69	39	13	22
Crawford	140	1	4	9	7	12	15	18	27	21	14	5	7
Dane	2,836	108	101	115	165	278	374	354	347	428	301	112	153
Dodge	493	20	21	18	40	36	66	55	66	79	51	24	17
Door	473	14	17	11	24	57	62	47	56	86	59	23	17
Douglas	266	6	8	16	16	18	35	44	34	31	27	15	16
Dunn	258	11	11	9	18	20	39	30	31	33	25	15	16
Eau Claire	648	22	29	26	45	55	98	74	84	89	77	20	29
Florence	19		1	1	2		1	2	5	5			2
Fond du Lac	678	24	23	32	55	69	84	69	87	101	77	30	27
Forest	70	2	2	2	4	10	11	9	5	14	7	1	3
Grant	368	11	11	11	21	38	55	34	44	59	43	21	20
Green	220	9	7	11	18	18	24	29	28	31	24	10	11
Green Lake	174	8	8	5	10	15	20	18	21	35	20	5	9
Iowa	180	8	7	3	7	16	27	22	21	29	26	7	7
Iron	51	2	2	3	2	5	12	8	4	6	3		4
Jackson	141	6	4	7	6	14	17	20	18	26	15	6	2
Jefferson	521	22	23	23	43	49	65	49	58	75	62	21	31
Juneau	174	4	6	9	5	18	20	24	16	20	21	15	16
Kenosha	859	27	48	36	68	79	104	98	100	128	83	42	46
Kewaunee	123	3	3	4	6	14	17	13	17	22	16	6	2
La Crosse	773	29	46	37	39	87	102	77	96	117	80	34	29
Lafayette	91	2	1	4	7	7	14	14	9	17	8	3	5
Langlade	165	7	9	11	10	15	23	19	21	20	15	3	12
Lincoln	241	6	5	12	8	22	33	34	31	33	38	8	11
Manitowoc	561	26	17	22	39	61	69	61	72	69	73	29	23
Marathon	856	19	35	31	56	81	96	121	113	127	88	46	43
Marinette	309	14	16	12	15	29	45	44	36	48	30	8	12
Marquette	116	3	7	7	9	9	16	10	15	18	14	6	2
Menominee	36		2	4	3	5	3	6	7	5		1	
Milwaukee	5,500	205	288	283	374	517	637	661	617	761	564	338	255
Monroe	297	16	10	8	20	39	37	38	31	39	22	18	19

Marriages

Table 4. Monthly Marriage Totals by County, Wisconsin 2000

<u>County</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Oconto	224	5	12	21	13	18	18	29	29	44	21	3	11
Oneida	288	10	19	10	16	29	32	41	37	44	28	14	8
Outagamie	1,240	37	43	65	86	141	163	118	161	179	133	63	51
Ozaukee	481	16	18	14	20	40	71	73	61	71	56	21	20
Pepin	63	1	3	3	2	4	9	6	13	11	9	1	1
Pierce	210	6	6	10	7	18	28	23	42	35	17	5	13
Polk	284	9	12	11	18	23	39	29	27	58	32	14	12
Portage	410	16	19	20	18	44	44	54	49	67	40	18	21
Price	105	2	3	6	2	10	12	14	14	19	13	3	7
Racine	1,068	39	49	57	61	93	131	127	126	150	115	69	51
Richland	129	4	7	10	9	13	12	11	20	16	16	5	6
Rock	939	38	42	51	57	92	122	98	119	134	97	53	36
Rusk	101	4	3	3	2	10	22	14	10	13	10	2	8
St. Croix	451	12	23	22	27	32	55	53	53	77	55	28	14
Sauk	488	19	16	21	34	42	65	51	40	81	58	37	24
Sawyer	154	10	8	7	6	21	24	17	15	25	8	2	11
Shawano	259	8	13	10	19	25	30	25	37	38	24	11	19
Sheboygan	810	46	35	33	66	88	95	80	80	116	89	49	33
Taylor	148	3	4	3	12	20	20	16	18	26	17	3	6
Trempealeau	190	6	8	6	13	18	29	14	22	38	23	7	6
Vernon	200	6	7	7	12	16	32	18	25	36	25	10	6
Vilas	179	7	4	10	7	9	28	19	31	26	17	6	15
Walworth	797	32	35	39	42	61	93	112	86	114	105	37	41
Washburn	93	7	6	7	4	5	9	7	9	17	11	3	8
Washington	744	22	38	39	39	84	96	100	86	93	80	38	29
Waukesha	2,372	70	82	93	149	244	290	276	316	335	298	121	98
Waupaca	465	11	23	22	31	51	61	52	56	63	49	20	26
Waushara	164	8	11	5	11	11	20	19	24	18	20	7	10
Winnebago	979	32	53	48	57	87	127	108	107	141	104	44	71
Wood	561	27	23	42	37	54	72	55	63	82	51	30	25

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: These numbers represent marriages that occurred in Wisconsin in 2000.

- In 2000, the months with the highest number of marriages were June, August and September. September was the most popular month to marry.
- Milwaukee County had the highest number of marriages in 2000 (5,500), followed by Dane County (2,836), Waukesha County (2,372), and Brown County (1,693). These are Wisconsin's four most populous counties.
- The lowest number of marriages occurred in the counties of Florence (19) and Menominee (36).

Table 5. Divorces and Divorce Rates, Wisconsin and United States, Selected Years, 1920-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Wisconsin Divorces</u>	<u>Wisconsin Divorce Rate*</u>	<u>United States Divorce Rate*</u>
1920	2,425	0.9	1.6
1925	2,467	0.9	1.5
1930	2,553	0.9	1.6
1935	3,543	1.2	1.7
1940	3,599	1.1	2.0
1945	6,393	2.2	3.5
1950	4,845	1.4	2.6
1955	4,720	1.3	2.3
1960	3,672	0.9	2.2
1965	5,232	1.2	2.5
1970	8,930	2.0	3.5
1975	13,187	2.9	4.8
1980	17,589	3.7	5.2
1985	16,596	3.5	5.0
1990	17,727	3.6	4.7
1991	18,480	3.7	4.7
1992	18,487	3.7	4.8
1993	17,527	3.5	4.6
1994	17,569	3.5	4.6
1995	17,313	3.4	4.4
1996	17,218	3.3	4.4
1997	17,289	3.3	4.3
1998	17,484	3.3	4.2
1999	17,302	3.3	4.1
2000	17,388	3.2	4.1

Source: U.S. divorce rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*. Wisconsin numbers and rates are from the Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

* Rates shown are divorces and annulments per 1,000 total population.

Notes: The Wisconsin numbers and rates represent divorces and annulments occurring in Wisconsin. The U.S. divorce rates for 1999 and 2000 are provisional based on divorces that occurred in the 12 months ending in December of both years.

- A total of 17,388 divorces occurred in Wisconsin in 2000, for a divorce rate of 3.2 per 1,000 population. This is slightly lower than the 1999 rate (3.3) and is the lowest statewide rate since 1975.
- Wisconsin's divorce rate has been lower than the national rate for more than 75 years.
- In 2000, the total number of Wisconsin divorces was 48 percent of the total number of Wisconsin marriages. This was identical to the 1999 percentage.

Table 6. Divorces and Annulments by County, Wisconsin 2000

<u>County</u>	<u>Divorces</u>	<u>Annulments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Divorces</u>	<u>Annulments</u>
Total	17,337	51			
Adams	67		Marathon	379	
Ashland	66		Marinette	141	1
Barron	144		Marquette	66	
Bayfield	47		Menominee	3	
Brown	761		Milwaukee	2,550	13
Buffalo	38		Monroe	171	1
Burnett	52		Oconto	125	1
Calumet	104	1	Oneida	147	1
Chippewa	217		Outagamie	521	1
Clark	89		Ozaukee	199	
Columbia	177		Pepin	10	
Crawford	47		Pierce	107	
Dane	1,375	5	Polk	138	
Dodge	281	1	Portage	218	
Door	85	1	Price	55	
Douglas	180		Racine	505	
Dunn	115		Richland	64	
Eau Claire	331	1	Rock	625	1
Florence	27		Rusk	57	
Fond du Lac	319	1	St. Croix	251	2
Forest	44		Sauk	227	
Grant	146		Sawyer	48	
Green	132	1	Shawano	161	1
Green Lake	52		Sheboygan	347	1
Iowa	79		Taylor	71	
Iron	27		Trempealeau	99	
Jackson	70	1	Vernon	62	
Jefferson	303		Vilas	88	1
Juneau	94	2	Walworth	334	
Kenosha	580	3	Washburn	63	1
Kewaunee	53		Washington	365	3
La Crosse	346		Waukesha	1,071	1
Lafayette	40		Waupaca	192	
Langlade	73		Waushara	61	
Lincoln	142	1	Winnebago	570	2
Manitowoc	259	2	Wood	284	

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: These numbers represent divorces and annulments that occurred in Wisconsin in 2000.

- The highest number of divorces occurred in Milwaukee County (2,550 divorces and 13 annulments), followed by Dane County (1,375 divorces and 5 annulments) and Waukesha County (1,071 divorces and 1 annulment), reflecting the large populations of these three counties.
- The lowest number of divorces occurred in the counties of Menominee (3 divorces), Pepin (10 divorces) and Florence and Iron (27 divorces each).

Divorces

Table 7. Divorces Affecting Children Under 18 Years of Age by County, Wisconsin 2000

<u>County</u>	<u>Divorces Granted</u>	<u>Those With Children < 18</u>	<u>No. of Children <18 Affected</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Divorces Granted</u>	<u>Those With Children < 18</u>	<u>No. of Children <18 Affected</u>
State Total	17,388	9,632	17,703				
Adams	67	33	59	Marathon	379	223	410
Ashland	66	36	55	Marinette	142	91	170
Barron	144	84	154	Marquette	66	33	65
Bayfield	47	27	58	Menominee	3	1	2
Brown	761	426	770	Milwaukee	2,563	1,248	2,218
Buffalo	38	21	38	Monroe	172	100	184
Burnett	52	25	47	Oconto	126	75	147
Calumet	105	68	109	Oneida	148	84	149
Chippewa	217	123	239	Outagamie	522	318	599
Clark	89	59	109	Ozaukee	199	114	217
Columbia	177	99	200	Pepin	10	4	8
Crawford	47	34	67	Pierce	107	71	142
Dane	1,380	694	1,258	Polk	138	72	142
Dodge	282	149	296	Portage	218	129	229
Door	86	42	80	Price	55	34	67
Douglas	180	122	222	Racine	505	292	548
Dunn	115	58	125	Richland	64	41	71
Eau Claire	332	210	377	Rock	626	365	711
Florence	27	15	24	Rusk	57	39	79
Fond du Lac	320	185	325	St. Croix	253	138	260
Forest	44	29	56	Sauk	227	122	238
Grant	146	94	179	Sawyer	48	24	42
Green	133	81	159	Shawano	162	86	177
Green Lake	52	24	45	Sheboygan	348	198	366
Iowa	79	44	87	Taylor	71	48	92
Iron	27	13	18	Trempealeau	99	69	123
Jackson	71	39	73	Vernon	62	41	74
Jefferson	303	186	351	Vilas	89	45	87
Juneau	96	49	88	Walworth	334	185	340
Kenosha	583	327	573	Washburn	64	31	55
Kewaunee	53	32	65	Washington	368	198	376
La Crosse	346	195	331	Waukesha	1,072	573	989
Lafayette	40	26	57	Waupaca	192	112	195
Langlade	73	37	75	Waushara	61	41	78
Lincoln	143	79	137	Winnebago	572	298	557
Manitowoc	261	151	267	Wood	284	173	323

Source: Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: These numbers represent divorces and annulments that occurred in Wisconsin in 2000.

- Fifty-five percent of all Wisconsin divorces in 2000 involved couples with children under 18 years of age. Among divorces involving children, an average of 1.8 children were affected by each divorce.

Technical Notes

Marriage Reporting Requirements

As specified in Chapter 69, Wisconsin Statutes, the following is a brief outline of the sequence of events which take place when a marriage occurs in Wisconsin:

- The filing party (officiant) must register the certificate of marriage with the local Register of Deeds (where the marriage took place) within 3 days after the event.
- The local Register of Deeds must transmit the marriage certificate to the State Registrar within 10 working days after its receipt.

A sample marriage certificate form can be found on page 16.

Divorce Reporting Requirements

As specified in Chapter 69, Wisconsin Statutes, the following is a brief outline of the sequence of events which take place when a divorce occurs in Wisconsin:

- At the end of every biweekly period the filing party (clerk of any court) must send to the State Registrar a report of every divorce or annulment of marriage granted during that period. (This is the only legal document pertaining to vital records that is not filed by the local Register of Deeds.)

A sample divorce certificate form can be found on page 17.

Do not complete this form before
reading the instructions for
Marriage License Application and
Original Certificate of Marriage

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

STATE FILE DATE

ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

STATE FILE NUMBER

Type or Print
Use Permanent
Black Ink
No Whiteout
or Erasures.

Reserved for
Vital Statistics

1. GROOM-NAME First Middle Last		2. DATE OF BIRTH Month Day Year	
3a. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: STATE		3b. COUNTY	
5. FATHER-NAME First Middle Last		6. MOTHER-NAME First Middle Birth Surname	
7a. BRIDE-NAME First Middle Last		7b. BRIDE-BIRTH SURNAME First Middle Birth Surname	
9a. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: STATE		9b. COUNTY	
11. FATHER-NAME First Middle Last		12. MOTHER-NAME First Middle Birth Surname	
13. GROOM'S SIGNATURE (SIGN BEFORE CEREMONY)		14. BRIDE'S SIGNATURE (SIGN BEFORE CEREMONY)	
WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF AND THAT WE ARE FREE TO MARRY UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE.			
15. LICENSE NO.			
16. ISSUED BY COUNTY CLERK			
17. DATE ISSUED Month Day Year			
18. ISSUING COUNTY			
19. DATE OF MARRIAGE: Month Day Year		20a. WHERE MARRIED-COUNTY	
21. OFFICIANT SIGNATURE: I certify that the above named persons were married before me on the above mentioned date (Black ink only)		22. ADULT WITNESS TO CEREMONY (Black ink only)	
23. OFFICIANT NAME (Print or Type)		24. ADULT WITNESS TO CEREMONY (Black ink only)	
25a. OFFICIANT TITLE		25b. OFFICIANT MAILING ADDRESS Street City State ZIP	
26. REGISTRAR SIGNATURE (Black ink only)		27. DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR Month Day Year	

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (1, 2, etc.)	IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED BY:	DATE LAST MARRIAGE ENDED Specify Below (Mo, Day, Yr)	RACE (White, Black, American Indian, etc.) Specify Below	EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed)
					32a. 32b.
33a.	28a.	29a. 1. Death 2. Div. 3. Annul.	30a.	31a.	32a.
33b.	28b.	*29b. 1. Death 2. Div. 3. Annul.	30b.	31b.	32b.

THIS ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTER OF DEEDS WITHIN 3 DAYS OF MARRIAGE.

NOTE: THIS ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE, LEGIBLY AND COMPLETELY FILLED OUT, MUST BE RETURNED TO THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF THE COUNTY OF MARRIAGE, WITHIN THREE DAYS FROM THE DATE OF MARRIAGE. MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE IS TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200), OR THREE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH. [Wis. Statute Sec. 765.30(4)(a)]

TYPE OR
PRINT IN
PERMANENT
BLACK INK

DOH-5280 (Rev. 4/98)
Chap. 65, Wis. Stat.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

STATE FILE DATE

ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT

STATE FILE NUMBER

1. HUSBAND - NAME		First	Full Middle	Last
2a. RESIDENCE - STATE		2b. RESIDENCE - COUNTY		
3. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)				
4. WIFE - NAME		First	Full Middle	Last
5. BIRTH SURNAME				
6a. RESIDENCE - STATE		6b. RESIDENCE - COUNTY		
7. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)				
8a. PLACE OF THIS MARRIAGE - STATE (If not in USA, Name Country)		8b. DATE OF THIS MARRIAGE (Month, Day, Year)		
9. DATE COUPLE FIRST RESIDED IN SAME HOUSEHOLD (Month, Day, Year)		10a. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN THIS HOUSEHOLD AS OF DATE IN 9		
10b. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 WHOSE PHYSICAL CUSTODY WAS AWARDED TO: Husband <input type="checkbox"/> Joint (husband/wife) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/>		11a. ATTORNEY OR PROTHONOTARY - NAME (Type or Print)		
11b. ADDRESS NUMBER AND STREET		CITY		STATE ZIP
12. DATE OF DECREE (Mo., Day, Yr.)		13. TYPE OF DECREE <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce <input type="checkbox"/> Annulment		15. COURT CASE NUMBER
16. SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING CLERK OF COURT		17. DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.)		
18. WIFE'S NEW NAME (If applicable)		19. HUSBAND'S NEW NAME (If applicable)		

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL USE ONLY				
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (1, 2, etc.) Specify Below	IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED, LAST MARRIAGE ENDED BY:	DATE LAST MARRIAGE ENDED (Mo., Day, Yr.)	RACE (White, Black, American, Indian, etc.) Specify Below
26a.	20a.	21a. 1. Death 2. Div. 3. Annul.	22a.	23a.
26b.	20b.	21b. 1. Death 2. Div. 3. Annul.	22b.	23b.
24a. EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) Elem./Second (10-12) College (1-4 or 5-)				
24b.				

25a. IF THIS DECREE FINDS THAT ONE OR MORE LIVING CHILDREN CONCEIVED OR BORN DURING THIS MARRIAGE ARE NOT THE ISSUE OF THIS MARRIAGE, LIST THESE CHILDREN BELOW.				
25b. FULL NAME OF CHILD AS IT APPEARS ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE. These children are not the issue of this marriage.	25c. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	25d. STATE OF BIRTH (If not in U.S.A., name country)	25e. COUNTY OF BIRTH	25f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
1. First Middle Last				
2.				
3.				
4.				

(Social security numbers are collected for child support enforcement purposes.)

